

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00640 231748Z

71

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-03 MED-01 PA-02

PRS-01 SCA-01 SCI-01 FDRE-00 SPM-01 IGA-02 /059 W

----- 031267

R 231030Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

CDC ATLANTA GEORGIA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 640

AIDAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: REPORTED MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN MAURITANIA

SUMMARY: CDC REP REPORTS INDICATIONS MEASLES EPIDEMIC THIS COUNTRY WHICH PROBABLY EXPLICABLE IN TERMS PREVAILING DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS. ACTION REQUESTED. AID AGREE SHIP FURTHER DOSES MEASLES VACCINE AND SPARE PARTS FOR PEDO-JETS.

1. CDC REP DR. MARK GREENE HAS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING REPORT TO EMBASSY:

QUOTE

AS PART OF CDC PROJECT ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SAHELIAN DROUGHT IN MAURITANIA, INQUIRY HAS BEEN MADE INTO RATES OF VARIOUS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO EMERGE AS SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THIS INQUIRY HAS REVEALED WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT MEASLES EPIDEMIC.

2. RELIABLE MEASLES SURVEILLANCE BEGAN IN 1967-1968. MEASLES EPIDEMIC OF 1968 WAS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL FOLLOWING INSTITUTION OF NATIONWIDE IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF USAID. IN SPITE OF CONTINUATION OF IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, MEASLES CONTINUED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00640 231748Z

ENDEMIC WITH AVERAGE OF 2500 REPORTED CASES ANNUALLY BETWEEN

JANUARY 1969 AND SEPTEMBER 1971.

3. RECRUDESCENCE OF MEASLES ACTIVITY BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1971 AND HAS ACCELERATED UP TO PRESENT. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES PER QUARTER AVERAGED 2300 THROUGH END OF 1972. 7600 CASES WERE REPORTED IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1973, LARGEST NUMBER IN SINGLE QUARTER SINCE REPORTING BEGAN. TOTAL REPORTED CASES FOR FIRST 4 MONTHS OF 1973(10,166) EXCEEDS ANNUAL TOTAL FOR 1972 (8997). IF CASES CONTINUE AT THIS RATE, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES FOR 1973 COULD EXCEED 20,000.

4. THE REPORTING SYSTEM HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNCHANGED THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD. HEALTH PERSONNEL HAVE A GOOD DEAL OF EXPERIENCE IN MAKING THIS DIAGNOSIS. SAME TREND IS APPARENT WHEN DATA IS EXAMINED BY REGION, WITH PRESERVATION OF EXPECTED SEASONAL TRENDS IN MOST REGIONS. FOR THESE REASONS, AND ALSO BECAUSE IMMUNIZATION PERSONNEL HAVE VERIFIED THESE OBSERVATIONS PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE THIS CONSTITUTES A REAL INCREASE IN MEASLES CASE RATE. THE SETTING OF THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE PROVIDE A REASONABLE EXPLANATION, BOTH IN TERMS OF LOWERED HOST RESISTANCE AND IN TERMS OF EXPOSING A LARGE, UNIMMUNIZED POOL OF SUSCEPTIBLES (THE DESERT NOMADS) TO URBAN RESERVOIRS OF MEASLES VIRUS.

5. THE MANPOWER AND ORGANIZATION CURRENTLY EXIST TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH PROBLEM. THERE ARE 13 MOBILE VACCINATION TEAMS DISPERSED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT AND VACCINE SUPPLIES SUFFICIENT TO LAST THROUGH AUGUST 1973.

6. FOLLOWING WOULD BE OF VALUE IN ASSISTING GIRM WITH THIS PROBLEM:

A. ASSURANCE FROM AID THAT THE SECOND HALF OF 1973 VACCINE SUPPLY (30,000 DOSES) WILL ARRIVE ON PROMISED SCHEDULE OF AUGUST 1973.

B. AGREEMENT BY USAID FOR AN EMERGENCY VACCINE SUPPLEMENTATION FOR 1973, GIVEN LOCAL DROUGHT, FAMINE AND EPIDEMIC CONDITIONS, TO ALLOW VACCINATION OF CHILDREN UP TO AGE 6, RATHER THAN THE CURRENT AGE 3. ESTIMATED 40,000 DOSES OF VACCINE WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00640 231748Z

REQUIRED. IF SUCH SUPPLEMENT CAN BE PROMISED NOW, FOR DELIVERY PERHAPS IN OCTOBER, CURRENT SUPPLIES WILL BE USED TO INSTITUTE ACCELERATED VACCINATION ACTIVITIES.

C. MOBILE VACCINATION TEAMS ARE CURRENTLY EQUIPED WITH PEDO-JETS AND PORTO-JETS. A REQUEST FOR BADLY NEEDED SPARE PARTS WAS MADE TO OCCGE IN APRIL 1973 WITHOUT RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH ALL EQUIPMENT IS CURRENTLY FUNCTIONAL, THERE ARE NOW NO SPARE PARTS

AVAILABLE, LEAVING NO RESERVE FOR DEALING WITH THE CURRENT
MEASLES EPIDEMIC AND CREATING POTENTIALLY CRITICAL SITUATION
SHOULD SOME OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROBLEM EMERGE PRIOR TO
TERMINATION OF THE DROUGHT. REQUIRED SPARE PARTS WOULD COST
AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS 3000.

UNQUOTE

7. I CONSIDER DROUGHT, FAMINE HAVE CREATED NEW JUSTIFICATION
FOR OUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE THIS PROGRAM. URGE AID PROVIDE
40,000 DOSES VACCINE TO EXTEND COVERAGE OF POPULATION UP TO
AGE SIX AND SUPPLY PEDO-JET SPARE PARTS. IF AID UNABLE EXTEND
THIS FURTHER ASSISTANCE, ADVISE SOONEST WHAT ALTERNATIVE ACTION
IT SUGGESTS SO THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY BE REDIRECTED TO
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLIES. MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC00640
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730716/aaaaalvc.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN MAURITANIA SUMMARY: CDC REP REPORTS INDICATIONS MEASLES EPIDEMIC THIS COUNTRY
TAGS: SOCI, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005